The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the labor, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1554 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1941 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 31, NO. 3

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

The CIO is now trying to capitalize on its nuisance value in the defense program. In a clever, different way it is working to disturbance and backfires in industry and putting the heat on the Government to force large corporations to sign contracts with the CIO.

Now these methods might be considered legitimate if the CIO had any substantial membership among the employes of these corporations. But they haven't and never did have. They've never seriously attempted the long, difficult and expensive task of organizing these employes. Instead, they've discovered what seems to be a much simpler technique. All they've got to do, they think, is to hold a figurative gun at the head of the Government and say: "Make these concessions or sign up with us or we'll strike and tie up the whole defense program."

If such tactics are not Communist-inspired, we'll eat our hat. It's just the way the Comrades love to work. If the Government knuckles down and takes orders from the CIO, that's fine for the Communists because it extends their sphere of influence. If the Government refuses to bow down to dictation, that makes the Communists even happier because then they have an excuse to pull a lot of phony strikes and further their dearest objective —which is to sabotage the defense program.

Raids Are Resuming

It's hard to believe that any organization—even the CIO—should be so untrue to its constituents as to engage in such reprehensible and un-American undertakings. But the record is clear on this point.

Not content with seeking to chisel in on unorganized plants, the CIO apparently has resumed its completely indefensible raiding tactics against the members and organizations of the American Federation of Labor.

When the Labor Policy Board of the National Defense Advisory Commission was named several months ago, its members—including both A. F. of L. and CIO union leaders—announced that so far as they were concerned there would be a truce to raiding activities in defense industries. This statement was widely hailed in the press.

Now one of the signers of that statement was R. J. Thomas, President of the CIO Auto Workers Union. And the other day something happened which indicates very clearly that Mr. Thomas has changed his mind about the whole thing. For he was responsible for the most brazen and bare-faced raid yet attempted by a CIO union against an A. F. of L. union.

This case involved the employes of the Bendix Manufacturing Company which manufactures automobile parts and airplane valves which are most urgently needed in the Government's rush program for mass production of warplanes.

Threatening the Government

The CIO has contracts with the company covering employes in four cities, but the American Federation of Labor Metal Automobile Workers Union has a similar contract covering the Eaton plants at Saginaw, Mich.

Apparently the CIO couldn't stand this setup, so they organized a systematic raid on the Saginaw plant. Unable to win a majority election through their own efforts, they sought aid from the National Labor Relations Board, but the Board threw out their complaints last October.

Still unwilling to give up, the CIO, on December 9, Thomas precipitated a strike at Saginaw. It was a flop. Only about 200 out of 1,200 employes responded and the plant continued to operate with loyal A. F. of L. workers who were observing their contract with the employer.

Growing desperate, the CIO union served notice on the Defense Commission that they would call all other plants of the company unless the unionization of the one in Saginaw. This pressure resulted in an agreement concocted then in Saginaw. This pressure resulted in an agreement concocted then in Saginaw. This pressure resulted in an agreement by the Labor Board to reconsider the case.

When the case was still pending before the Board, the CIO union made good the threats and called a company-wide strike. It scared the Government officials. All sorts of threats and counter-threats were made. But the A. F. of L. union and its members held their ground and the CIO union finally was forced to call off the strike. Then the Labor Board again threw out the fake complaints against the A. F. of L. contract at Saginaw and the situation remains where it was before all the fuss started.

The circumstances of this case were so atrocious that President Green of the American Federation of Labor publicly denounced the action of the CIO as a "deliberate attempt to sabotage the national defense program." And, taking notice of Mr. Thomas' responsibility in the case, President Green called for his removal from the Labor Policy Board.

The facts demand that such action be taken at once.

This is not the only raid attempted or in contemplation. The CIO Construction Workers, under Little Boy Lewis, which is the union without members in the nation, now announces it intends to chisel in on A. F. of L. building trade union contracts in the defense program. This threat is even more brazen. I think that Sidney Hillman, the associate director of the Office of Production Management, should deal with it publicly, drastically and immediately.

An Appeal!

President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany sent a heartfelt appeal to all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to contribute in the name of humanity to the Infantile Paralysis Campaign Fund which reaches its climax on January 30, President Roosevelt's Birthday.

"Each year," the letter said, "an appeal has been made to the officers of national and international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, to contribute liberally as possible to the Infantile Paralysis Campaign Fund. The response which practically all national and international unions made to said appeal each year was most gratifying and highly commendable. The American Federation of Labor made a fine record during a previous campaign, to further its purpose the treatment and relief of the victims of this disease, which for years was regarded as incurable.

"It is our earnest hope that during the period intervening between now and January 30th, when the President's Birthday will be celebrated, that all organized units of the American Federation of Labor, and the members thereof, will contribute generously to the Infantile Paralysis Campaign.

"We hope and trust you may increase your contribution this year over the amount you contributed in other years to this praiseworthy cause.

"Please send your financial contribution to Mr. George Meany, Secretary-Treasurer, American Federation of Labor, so that your organization, and the American Federation of Labor, may be given credit for such contributions as you may all find it possible to make to the Infantile Paralysis Campaign Fund.

"In conformity with a custom which was observed in previous years, a beautiful, huge birthday cake, prepared by union bakers under the auspices of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International Union, will be presented to President Roosevelt on his birthday. We will be happy to present to the President at the time the birthday cake is presented, the checks which you and your associates may send to Secretary-Treasurer Meany as your contribution to the Infantile Paralysis Campaign Fund. A list of the names of the organizations contributing, together with the amount contributed will be presented along with the checks you send us on the occasion named."

Green Raps Critics of Roosevelt; Denies President is "War-Monger"

New York, N. Y.—Sternly repudiating those who attack President Roosevelt as a "war-monger," President William Green of the American Federation of Labor told the national conference of the Jewish Labor Committee at Carnegie Hall that the Administration's policy is designed to keep America out of war "now and in the future."

"We of the American Federation of Labor have confidence in the soundness and sincerity of President Roosevelt's foreign policy," said Mr. Green. "We do not believe for one moment that he is a war-monger. We are thoroughly convinced that his national defense program and his aid-to-Britain policy are the means best calculated to keep us out of war now and in the future.

"We view with suspicion those who condemn President Roosevelt as a war-monger and imply that he is trying to push America into the war. In our estimation the war-mongers of the world are Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin. It is our conviction that peace cannot be made with them except on terms of surrender. There can be no peace, there can be no way of keeping peace, in the world as long as they remain in power."

Mr. Green praised the work of the Jewish Labor Committee in "combatting the rescue of 400 distinguished refugees from the clutches of totalitarian persecution," and he boasted that the American Federation of Labor also was largely responsible in obtaining the State Department's approval of the plan to bring them to this country. Actual participation in the refugees were present at the meeting.

"On behalf of the American Federation of Labor," Mr. Green said, "I pledge to the Jewish Labor Committee, which represents more than half a million Jewish workers in the United States and Canada, the continued help and assistance of our organization in behalf of its 2½ million members.

"We of the American Federation of Labor are always responsive to the appeals of humanity. We are not so engrossed in abstract political theories that we fail to hear the cries of individual sufferers. We have heard and we have responded to the call. We have exercised our influence upon the Government and have enlisted the aid of the State Department in the mission of mercy of the Jewish Labor Committee. We have helped to rescue from the wrath of the dictators groups of outstanding men and women of all faiths and nationalities.

"I say to these distinguished guests of America who are with us tonight, who have suffered only because they refused to bow down to dictatorship, that we are glad to have you stay with us as long as necessity requires. We know that your hearts and souls are linked by unbreakable ties with the sufferings and trials of your countrymen in Europe. Do not let them give up hope. Inform them as best you can that America is mobilizing its resources in the defense program. Tell them we in America are going to help them by helping ourselves.

"The sense of justice will not slay was not created by man. It is born in every one of us. It can never be crushed by any mortal because it is immortal and unconquerable.

"We can have faith in the future because that sense of justice and fair play has been aroused throughout the civilized world. It is arousing against dictatorship and totalitarianism. It will fashion weapons more powerful than the blitzkrieg. And its wrath will not be appeased until the menace of totalitarianism is banished from the earth once and for all."

Protection of Democracy Demands Defense Program, Woll Declares

New York, N. Y.—Stressing the disaster to democracy of a British defeat by Hitler, Matthew Woll, third vice president of the American Federation of Labor and chairman of the American Labor Committee to Aid British Labor, urged 3,000 members of the New York Photo Engravers Union, Local 1, to give all possible support to the Government's defense program.

Mr. Woll emphasized the dangers that face America "if the Atlantic and Pacific sea lanes are open to these hordes."

"We cannot stand alone as a free country," Mr. Woll continued. "International relations, trade and commerce will force us to adopt a totalitarian philosophy here to withstand the pressure from Europe and Asia."

In urging the immediate all-out government's defense program, Mr. Woll expressed the hope that organized labor would spared actual participation in the conflict. He added, however, that "America must realize they are already in the war.

"The war is not one of mere military forces, but one of philosophies," he continued. "It is a war of civilian populations, a war which comes into the homes. It is a war of workshops and of managements.

"It is essential for us to see that our workers here turn over faster than they do in the dictator countries. With that response, real labor, I am confident that freedom will survive."

Ladies' Garment Workers, Employers, Start All-Americas Sales Campaign

New York, N. Y.—Governing bodies of three dress manufacturers' organizations have approved a proposal by the Dress Joint Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to raise $1,500,000 for a promotional campaign throughout the Western Hemisphere to increase sales and production in the industry, it was announced by Julius Hochman, manager of the joint board.

Acceptance by the governing bodies of the employer groups insures that the member manufacturers will follow suit, and creates a situation unparalleled in American industry. For the first time a union has forced employer to intensify their advertising and promotion.

The dress industry, New York City's largest, employs 85,000 persons, has 21,000 employers and annually produces garments valued at $350,000,000. The union's promotional plan is that the employers contribute $1,000,000, with the remaining $500,000 to come from retailers, textile firms, accessory producers, real estate and banking interests.

The union objectives in the promotional campaign are to increase sales in the United States and to develop the industry throughout the Latin America. The union contends that even in the United States the average woman buys but two dresses a year.

In addition to its proposal concerning the promotional campaign, the union is seeking to make New York the style center of the world.

OIL WITH UNION LABEL IS NOW ON THE MARKET

Washington, D. C.—"Union label lubricating oil for automobile use and other purposes will be distributed in New Jersey, Connecticut and the metropolitan area of New York City on February 1," I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, announced. "An agreement has been reached with the union label oil company after satisfactory labor union conditions had been established throughout the entire plant."

"Union label oil is a high-grade Pennsylvania product and meets the highest tests. Final and complete arrangements have been made to distribute this oil bearing the union label of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

"Members of labor unions, their families and friends," said Mr. Ornburn, "should show a preference for any union label product by demanding it wherever they make purchases. We hope that they will demand union label oil at filling stations, thus giving encouragement to the processors and distributors of this product. The purchase of union label products is the only way to maintain American labor union standards."

New Contracts With Western Union Signed by AFL Union In Two Cities

Washington, D. C.—Signing of a new contract with the Western Union Company in this city, which outlaws strikes and provides for arbitration of all disputes, was announced by the Commercial Telegraphers Union. The contract provides for moderate wage increases and improvements in working conditions.

Another contract was signed by the C.T.U. with Western Union for employes of that company's cafeteria in this city.

Frank P. Powers, president of the union, disclosed that "no strike" contracts are being negotiated with Western Union in eighty-one additional cities where the C.T.U. is recognized as collective bargaining agent for the employes.

The first two Western Union contracts signed are by "no strike" agreements entered into by the firm since its former company union was ousted and "independent unions" have sprung up with evidence of being company-inspired and encouraged. The C.T.U. has filed charges with the National Labor Relations Board against these fake units.

LABOR CHIEFS HONOR MISS FLORENCE THORNE

Washington, D. C.—Research officials of unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, many under-secretaries and assistant representatives honored Miss Florence Thorne of the A. F. of L. Research Staff at a testimonial dinner at the Hay-Adams Hotel here.

Tendered on the beginning of Miss Thorne's thirtieth year with the American Federation of Labor, the date dates be A. F. of L. in 1911, shortly after her graduation from the University of Chicago, when research for labor unions was almost unknown. Since then many of the large national and international unions have built up research departments largely following her pioneer work in this field.

Notables who attended the dinner included: President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany of the A. F. of L; Isador Lubin, chief of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor; Otto Beyer, member of the National Mediation Board; Marion H. Hedges, research director of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America, and L. C. Marshall, dean of the American University.

A tribute to Miss Thorne was paid by Albert N. Dennis in the "Labor Review" radio program over Station WJSV of the Columbia Broadcasting System. As a labor economist, statistician and editorial worker long on the staff of the American Federationist, Miss Florence Thorne has contributed much to developing, assembling and disseminating, facts about labor—facts gathered "not for labor's great progress is so firmly based," he said.

$123,000 IN BACK WAGES COLLECTED FOR WORKERS

New York, N. Y.—More than $123,000 was collected and returned to workers who had been paid less than the minimum wage in the six industries under minimum wage orders in New York State in 1940, according to Miss Kate Papert, Acting Director of the Division of Women in Industry and Minimum Wage of the Labor Department, speaking at the annual meeting of the National Consumers' League at Hotel Commodore.

News Briefs

TOVREA PACKING CO. SIGNS MEAT CUTTERS AGREEMENT

Chicago, Ill.—The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America announce the signing of a strictly union agreement with the Tovrea Packing Company located at Phoenix, Arizona. This company is among the largest meat packing concerns in the Southwest, working three hundred (300) employes. The agreement was consummated after a bitter struggle of five years during which time numerous court proceedings developed.

The contract agreed upon stipulates a 10 per cent increase in pay with a reduction in the working hours, full pay during the vacation period, 24 hour guaranteed work week, seniority rights and several other beneficial features.

BERARDI QUITS CIO GUILD; JOINS AFL EDITORIAL ASSN.

Washington, D. C.—The American Editorial Association, the national council of newspaper workers' unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, announced that Anthony Berardi, one of the international vice presidents of the CIO American Newspaper Guild, has resigned from the latter union and has joined the Chicago Editorial Association, the Chicago local of the A.F.L.

Mr. Berardi was one of eighteen new members admitted into the Chicago Editorial Association at a meeting in Chicago. The Chicago Editorial Association recently was certified by the National Labor Relations Board as the exclusive bargaining agency for editorial employes of the Chicago Herald-American, following an election in which it won an overwhelming victory over the Guild.

1,111,530 EMPLOYES ON FEDERAL PAYROLL

Washington, D. C.—The Civil Service Commission reported that the executive civilian payroll for November, to a record high of 1,111,530 during November, because of the national defense program.

Employment during the month showed an increase of 25,369 over October. This increase was largely which contributed heavily to the increase included the War Department with 6,919; Navy Department, 8,936, and Panama Canal, 1,950.

U. S. APPEALS COURT RULES WAGE-HOUR LAW IS VALID

Boston, Mass.—In the first ruling by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals held that the Federal wage-hour law was constitutional.

The decision was rendered in the case of the Eastern Sugar Associates of Puerto Rico, involved in a dispute with their employes. The company charged that the employes were engaged in interstate and that the law was unconstitutional.

In the decision, upholding a decision of the District Court of San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Circuit Court ruled that all employes of Puerto Rico are engaged in commerce, engaged in planting, cultivating and harvesting of sugar cane, are entitled to the benefits of the wage-hour law at all."

JERSEY CITY BUTCHERS SIGN UP CUDAHY COMPANY

New York, N. Y.—After a bitter strike of four weeks against Cudahy & Company, employing 450 workers in their plant at Jersey City, N. J., it was announced by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America that a strictly union agreement has been consented to by the company.

The strike was called after the Butcher Workmen won an election by a most decisive majority from the C. I. O. The company, as part of the settlement, agreed to re-employ the employes for a portion of the time they were on strike. Local Union No. 640 of which these workers are members anticipate a quick campaign in the Jersey City area to completely organize the remaining plants of the so-called "Big Four" packers.

PENNA. EMPLOYMENT UNIT FINDS WORK FOR 169,000

Harrisburg, Pa.—Reports from local offices of the Pennsylvania State Employment Service for the week ending December 27, brought the agency's 1940 job placement total to nearly 169,000, Secretary of Labor and Industry Lewis G. Hines announced. This total represents a gain of 23 per cent over the 137,000 placements made in the corresponding period of 1939.

230 STRIKES HANDLED BY CONCILIATION UNIT

Washington, D. C.—The Conciliation Service of the U. S. Department of Labor disposed of 230 strikes, affecting 100,000 workers, and controversies, involving 190,732 workers last month, Secretary of Labor Perkins reported.

The facilities of the Service were used in 27 major industrial fields, such as building trades, the manufacturers of foods, iron and steel, textiles, etc., and were utilized by employers and employes in 39 States and the District of Columbia.

AFL Endorses Lease-Lend Measure; Also Favors "Farming-Out" Plan

PATTERSON LAUDS AFL COOPERATION

Under Secretary of War Praises "No Strike" Policy in National Defense Industries.

Chicago, Ill.—High tribute to the cooperative efforts of the American Federation of Labor in the defense program was paid by Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson in two addresses delivered before the Chicago Federation of Labor and broadcast throughout the nation.

"You gentlemen of the American Federation of Labor," said the high army official, "are alert to the gravity of the dangers that face us. You were among the first to rise up in opposition to the ravaging totalitarian forces. You raised your collective voice in support of invulnerable defenses for America. Today you stand in the forefront of those cooperating to speed plans for our security.

"For you, as for me, day by day, the American Federation of Labor's legislative program for 1941, calling for the extension of every aid short of war to those democratic nations which have been attacked by the aggressor totalitarian governments.

"Today we have a two-fold mission before us. We must be prepared for all contingencies, and to see that the maximum help reaches England. The cooperation of labor is essential to the achievement of these goals.

"The War Department, whose responsibility it is to secure six billion dollars worth of military supplies under the stress of the most urgent impetus of swift, efficient production is the cooperation of labor given in the spirit of free partnership. This partnership is making possible significant achievements in the manufacture of planes and the construction of defense facilities. Here is an example: In your cantonment in Corpus Christi, Texas, the A. F. of L. brought three to four thousand skilled mechanics from thousands of miles away to help in the building work. Without those craftsmen, the Corpus Christi camp would not be approaching completion as it is today.

"In an hour of crisis, such as this, there is little room for waste. Even in untroubled times that responsible trade unionists are essential for are to obtain labor's full assistance. And it is certain that collective bargaining is the normal way to do it.

"The War Department has more than an academic interest in preserving the social gains won by labor. It knows that the maintenance of labor standards will react to the benefit of the entire nation. It is for this reason that the maintenance of these fair standards will mean maximum production in the long run.

"This nation cannot afford the loss of one day's production at any of the plants arising out military emergencies, whether it be caused by lock-out or strike. The War Department knows the bitterness engendered by industrial strife. The time is too short for wasteful struggles.

"Therefore, the splendid position taken by those two great components of the American Federation of Labor, the Metal Trades Department and the Building and Construction Trades Department, has given reassurance to the nation.

"Their recently adopted policy of "No strikes" on defense work is a highly praiseworthy example of patriotic moderation. In time of peril, voluntary arbitration, as proposed by the Metal Trades Department is by far the most satisfactory method of adjudicating differences between industry and labor.

"You gentlemen of the American labor movement have shown a laudable attitude of cooperation. You have placed your country's interests, democracy's interests, above all else. May that spirit become universal!"

Harrison Says Anti-Labor Employers Seek Abolition of Workers' Rights

Chicago, Ill.—President George M. Harrison of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, charged in an address at a rally of Lakeside Lodge of the unions that many employers are endeavoring to take advantage of the national defense program to reduce wages and suppress the rights of workers.

Declaring that labor will not permit employers to beat down workers' standards while taking big profits for themselves, Mr. Harrison said that labor has never been found wanting when it came to patriotism and the nation's best interests but labor will be called on to make sacrifices when huge profits are being piled up by everybody.

"We have no intention of permitting labor to be made the scapegoat and forced to assume an unfair share of the defense burden at a time when employers are seeking selfish advantage for themselves.

"Big Business and the hostile press do not know the temper of our people when they talk nonsense about labor's sacrifices by labor workers. They want to beat down our wages and put up their prices. I wonder how many bosses who own plants take the same number of dollars in profit today that they did before the defense program was inaugurated.

Mr. Harrison also described the tremendous progress made by the Brotherhood in recent years. He has, he said, 160,000 members in 1400 lodges, which constitutes the largest railroad labor organization and the "biggest group of white collar workers in the United States or any other country."

"We have increased not only in size, but in influence and prestige," he declared. "Over 100,000 workers are subject to our bargaining contracts. I believe our opportunities for service are unlimited."

AFL President Urges Congress to Enact Measure to Speed Aid to Britain.

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor announced the lease-lend bill now pending in Congress and urged its enactment.

Mr. Green made known the position of the American Federation of Labor in a telegram to Rep. Hamilton Fish in which he refused the Congressman's invitation to testify against the bill. The telegram follows:

"I am in disagreement with you and your associates in opposition to the general principles of the lease-lend bill now pending in Congress. While some details of the bill should be amended it is my opinion that the general principles of this measure should be enacted into law. I regret for this reason I cannot join with you and your associates in opposition to this measure as set forth in your telegram received today."

The Federation also endorsed the Administration's plan for farming out defense work, whenever possible, to the large number of small plants not having contracts but with available facilities for producing armament. The statement follows:

"The American Federation of Labor wishes to give the fullest possible service in defense of democracy and for that reason is deeply concerned that the basis of all planning shall be the representative principle that will put voluntary organizations solidly behind defense production.

"Organized labor is in full accord with administration efforts to speed up the defense program by the 'farming out' or sub-contracting of work to that large number of plants which are not now occupied with prime contracts, but have available equipment which could do some work on orders awarded to others. The approval by labor representatives of specific plans will prevent misunderstanding or friction in carrying them out.

"There have been times when men who have spent their lives working in certain industries and plants have been successful efforts to give to others employment which they felt belonged to them. But today there is little room for waste. Jobs must be completed in months or years to come. Employers should, therefore, welcome any outside help which they can get which will hasten the completion of their defense jobs, so that they can be ready for the yet bigger tasks which the defense program will require.

"Organized labor further believes that farming out because it would be the most effective method of giving jobs to the millions of Americans who are now unemployed. It would spread the work to the men, thus avoiding dislocations of many kinds caused by moving workers away from their homes. Most of those who are still unemployed are not highly skilled in the crafts most needed for defense work. Union members, however, will do everything in their power to help the new men to become efficient, and to swell to the maximum the output of the decentralized industrial set-up very moment by these fighting aggression abroad, as well as ultimately for the protection of our own defense.

"The American Federation of Labor is therefore convinced that the defense program because we want to preserve the democratic way of life."

MINIMUM WAGE CHIEFS MEET IN WASHINGTON

Washington, D. C.—The tenth minimum wage conference convened in the Labor Department building under the sponsorship of the U. S. Women's Bureau, when attended by minimum wage administrators from 11 states, the District of Columbia, and by other speakers Mary Anderson, the Women's Bureau director, presided.

Round table discussion as to whether the defense program will tend to accelerate state minimum wage activity because of higher wages in defense industries and changes in living costs was the opening feature.

INSURANCE CO. AGENTS CHOOSE AFL AFFILIATE

Washington, D. C.—The agents employed by the Pioneer Life Insurance Company in Staunton, Charlottesville and Covington, Va., rolled up a majority for the Industrial and Ordinary Insurance Agents Union, A. F. of L. affiliate, as their collective bargaining representative at an election held by the National Labor Relations Board, it was announced.